

## 2022 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Messaging and Resources Guide

### United Against Domestic Abuse: Breaking the Silence

The 2022 Domestic Violence Awareness Month campaign encourages the military community to speak up and share information about **preventing domestic abuse and supporting those who have experienced it**. Awareness month activities this October will inform service providers and leaders of the safe and effective ways to connect victims with support. And they will help family, friends and concerned community members learn how to assist individuals who are at risk for domestic abuse.

This year's campaign seeks to support victims with a clear message: If you are experiencing abuse in your relationship, you don't have to face it alone. Learn about your local Family Advocacy Program and other resources available to you.

**CAMPAIGN:** United Against Domestic Abuse

**AWARENESS MONTH THEME:** Breaking the Silence

**HASHTAGS:** #DVAM #UnitedAgainstDA #BreaktheSilence

**WEBSITE:** [www.militaryonesource.mil/united-against](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/united-against)

**TARGET AUDIENCES:**

- Victims and potential victims of domestic abuse
- Military leaders
- Spouses of military leaders and civilian family readiness coordinators
- Military service providers/collaborators
- Concerned friends and members of the military community



**RESOURCES:**

- United Against Domestic Abuse landing page (*Coming soon*)
- Family Advocacy Program landing page (*Coming soon*)
- Commander and leader toolkit page (*Coming soon*)
- [Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate Locator](#)
- [Service provider toolkit page](#)
- [Transitional Compensation: Help for Victims of Abuse article](#)
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#)

**KEY MESSAGES:**

**For all Audiences:** The Defense Department is committed to the safety and well-being of military families. Living a life that is safe, secure and free from abuse is a basic human need. All reports of

domestic abuse will be taken seriously, and resources are available to help victims.

- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Defense Department seeks to raise awareness through a service-wide campaign.
- There are two ways to report domestic abuse: 1) Restricted reporting (also known as private and confidential reporting), which preserves the privacy of victims and limits who is involved, except under certain circumstances; and 2) unrestricted reporting, where victims can enlist law enforcement to conduct an investigation of the incident, which includes contacting the alleged abuser.
- Family Advocacy Program staff members are always available to support victims and others affected by domestic abuse, whether they are at a point where they want to leave their partner or are just looking for information. They work with victims to develop a safety plan and can connect them to emergency services, counseling and emotional support, housing and shelter, and financial and legal services. If needed, they can help victims get a military or civilian protection order.
- Potential victims extend beyond spouses of military members. They may also include those who are dating, living together or who have children in common.
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides essential tools and support to help survivors of domestic violence so they can live their lives free of abuse. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Call to action: Together, we can help make sure our military families are safe and healthy. Learn how you can help by contacting your local FAP office or visiting [MilitaryOneSource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil).**

**For potential victims:** We all deserve relationships that are free from abuse and violence. If your partner's actions make you feel uncomfortable or hurt you in any way, you are not alone. We can help you.

- Military service members and families have confidential options for reporting domestic abuse, and the military community has services and resources to support you. All it takes is one call to a domestic abuse victim advocate. You do not have to be married to file a report, and if you are not a beneficiary, FAP can still connect you to an advocate and resources to help keep you safe. Whether you fear for your own safety, want to protect your children or want to get help for your partner, help is available, and you are not alone.
- Your nearest FAP staff can help you understand your options for reporting, document your domestic abuse, create a safety plan and connect you to a network of support.
- You don't have to be experiencing a crisis to meet or speak with a victim advocate — they can support you regardless of the state of your relationship.
- Connecting with a victim advocate is free. You can decide how much of your story to share in the first conversation.

**Call to action: You have options.**

- Reach out now to your nearest FAP office or call Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 at any time, no matter where you are in the world, to get connected with a domestic abuse victim advocate.
- If you are concerned about your safety and need immediate support, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233, or live chat with an advocate at [thehotline.org](https://thehotline.org).